

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 00040 070749Z

12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

/060 W

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R 070711Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4976
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, HU
SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF PARTY CARDS - HUNGARY

REF: 75 BUDAPEST 3634

1. PARTY DAILY NEPSZABADSAG CARRIED FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL JAN 4 RE LONG TALKED-ABOUT EXCHANGE OF COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERSHIP CARDS. ARTICLE REPORTS THAT CENTRAL COMMITTEE IS SENDING LETTERS TO ALL PARTY MEMBERS CONCERNING GROUND RULES FOR EXCHANGE OF CARDS. THESE LETTERS ARE TO BE READ BY PARTY FAITHFUL DURING LOCAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS DURING MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY. MARATHON READING WILL THEN BE FOLLOWED BY PERSONAL INTERVIEWS OF ALL PARTY MEMBERS (SEE REFTEL).

2. ARTICLE STRESSES THAT EXCHANGE OF CARDS IS "NOT A PURGE OR SIGN OF MEMBERSHIP SHAKEUP", NOR DOES IT REPRESENT A CHANGE IN SOCIAL COMPOSITION OF PARTY. NEPSZABADSAG
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ADDS THAT EXCHANGE PROVIDES "GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR

LEADERSHIP TO CHAT WITH PARTY MEMBERS IN ORDER TO
STRENGTHEN UNIFIED ACTION IN IDEOLOGICAL FIELD".

3. EVERY ARTICLE ON EXCHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP CARDS HAS
EMPHASIZED BENIGN NATURE OF THIS EXERCISE, CAREFULLY
ASSURING PARTY FAITHFUL THAT SHAKEUP OR PURGE NOT
CONTEMPLATED. CONTINUED REASSURANCE TO THIS EFFECT
MUST INDICATE THAT EXCHANGE OF CARDS IS VIEWED WITH
SOME TREPIDATION BY MEMBERSHIP.

4. JOKE IS NOW CIRCULATING AMONG HUNGARIANS IN BUDAPEST
TO EFFECT THAT SIGNIFICANT SHAKEUP GOING ON IN HUNGARY:
NON-PARTY MEMBERS ARE PURIFYING THEIR RANKS BY
EXCHANGING CARDS.
MCAULIFFE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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